(a) whether it is a fact that the Archaeological Survey of India has decided to declare Sri Arunachaleswara Temple of Tiruvannamalai as a monument of national importance;

(b) whether the State Government has been informed of it;

(c) if not what are the reasons therefor; and

(d) In what manner the Archaeological Survey of India proposed to ensure that the worship in the living temple is not affected?

THE MINISTER FOR TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRI JAGMOHAN): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. A Preliminary notification has been issued on 21.9.2002 under section 4(1) of the Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Sites and Remains Act, 1958 by the Central Government expressing its intention to protect the Arunachaleshwarar, temple to take care of the structural repairs, chemical preservation, environmental development and objections have been invited from the public.

(c) Question does not arise.

(d) Through a Memorandum of Understanding between the parties.

Recognised tourist spots in ne region

1486. SHRI MATILAL SARKAR: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the names of the recognised tourist spots in the North-Eastern Region;

(b) the names of tourist spots where new projects are planned on tourism in the North-East; and

(c) the projects for which funds are allotted and those for which funds are not allotted with particular reference to the North-East?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRI JAGMOHAN): (a) Some of the important tourist spots in the NE region are as follows:

Assam : Guwahati, Kaziranga National Park, Kamakhya Devi Temple (religious), Sibsagar.

Arunachal Pradesh : Itanagar, Bomdila, Tawang Gompa (religious).

Manipur : Imphal, War Cemetery, Loktak Lake, Govindajee Temple (Religious).

Mizoram : Aizawl, Tamdil Lake, Champhai, Dama Sanctuary.

Meghalaya : Shillong, Barapani, Umiam Lake, Cathedral of Mary Help of Christians (Religious).

Nagaland : Kohima, War Cemetery, Dimapur, Catholic Cathedral at Aradura hills (religious), Famim Sanctuary.

Tripura : Rock Cuts at Unakoti and Pilak, Mata Tripureshwari Temple at Udaipur (Religious), fourteen Goddess Temple (Religious).

Sikkim : Gangtok, Rumtek Monastery (Religious), Khecheopari Lake.

(b) and (c) During the current year the following circuit has been identified for development and the detailed project report is under preparation.

Shillong-Guwahati-Kaziranga-Tezpur-Bhalakpung-Tawang-Majuli-Sibsagar-Kohima.

Besides, as per the Plan schemes, it is planned to develop a major destination in each State. Financial assistance is also provided to the States for fairs and festivals related to tourism.

During the current year a provision of Rs. 22.5 crores has been made for North Eastern region including Sikkim for tourism development.

Bharat Darshan Park in Bangalore

1487. SHRI K.B. KRISHNA MURTHY: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the National Council of Science Museums has signed any Memorandum of Understanding with the Karnataka Government for setting up a Bharat Darshan Park in Bangalore;

(b) if not, whether Government are aware that a decision was taken earlier to set up a Bharat Darshan Park in Bangalore as part of the Golden Jubilee Celebration of Indian Republic;

(c) whether the Karnataka Government has earmarked land for this purpose; and